



Town of Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2007 - 2012



Town of Arlington

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2007 - 2012

**Town of Arlington
Open Space and Recreation Plan Update
2007-2012**

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Acknowledgements

Town of Arlington

Department of Planning and Community Development

Kevin O'Brien, Director

Joey Glushko, Planner

Arlington Open Space Committee

Jane Auger (Resident)

Teresa DeBenedictis (Department of Public Works)

Lisa Decker (Redevelopment Board)

Joey Glushko (Planning and Community Development Department)

Michele Hassler (Cemetery Commission)

Elizabeth Karpati (Vision 2020)

Patsy Kraemer (Department of Human Services)

Ann LeRoyer (Resident), Chair

Leslie Mayer (Park and Recreation Commission)

David White (Conservation Commission), Vice Chair

Consultant Team

 *Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.*

Ralph Willmer, AICP, Principal Planner

Mike Borsare, Project Planner

Liz Grubin, Intern

Board of Selectmen

Annie LaCourt, Chair

Diane M. Mahon, Vice Chair

Kevin F. Greeley

John W. Hurd

Clarissa Rowe

Town Manager

Brian F. Sullivan

Arlington Redevelopment Board

Roland Chaput, Chair

Andrew West, Vice Chair

Bruce Fitzsimmons

Chris Loreti

Edward T.M. Tsoi



1 - Plan Summary

A bird's eye view of Arlington in 1884

1. Plan Summary

The Town of Arlington is a highly developed and densely populated community with few large open spaces remaining within its borders and limited direct access to open space resources in adjacent towns. The need to preserve and protect existing open spaces is widely recognized and deeply felt by Arlington residents.

Changing demographics in Arlington over the past decade have altered the needs for and demands on limited public resources for outdoor recreation, physical fitness and sports, playing fields, playgrounds, and other active and passive recreational facilities, such as the very popular Marquis/Minuteman Bikeway. Residents also regularly express their desire for more natural green spaces for walking, bird watching and other contemplative pleasures.

The Town faces serious management, staffing and financial challenges to address these diverse needs for conservation land, parks, playgrounds and outdoor sports facilities. Progress has been made over the past five years to enhance several key sites, and several volunteer Friends groups have been formed to advocate and raise funds for specific parks. However, the Town also needs to develop a stronger townwide open space management program and incorporate regionwide solutions to meet the competing demands of many different constituencies.



<http://www.live.com>

Arlington's density underscores residents' desire to preserve, protect, and enhance open space

This document is Arlington's third Open Space and Recreation Plan. It focuses on many specific accomplishments and other steps taken to address the goals, objectives and actions outlined in the 2002 Open Space Plan. It presents an updated inventory of Arlington's open spaces, documents open space needs, and establishes open space aspirations. Overall, this Plan reaffirms Arlington's desire to meet these revised goals:

- ☞ Acquire undeveloped land for permanent protection as open space in neighborhoods throughout the Town.
- ☞ Preserve, protect and enhance existing open spaces, including watersheds and natural areas; parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities; and historic sites and cultural landscapes.
- ☞ Coordinate and strengthen local and regional planning and management of open spaces in conjunction with various Town departments, commissions and volunteer groups, and work closely with nearby towns and regional entities, and with state and federal officials and agencies.
- ☞ Increase public awareness, accessibility and community stewardship of the Town's open spaces.

Arlington's open space is a precious and limited resource that has been difficult to acquire and maintain and needs to be protected ardently. This Plan presents open space goals, objectives and actions that will guide Arlington's open space philosophy, planning and management through 2012.

Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee



The Minuteman Bikeway in use



Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee

Arlington Reservoir in the fall

2 - Introduction

Preserve

Protect

Enhance

2. Introduction

A. Statement of Purpose

This Open Space and Recreation Plan reflects Arlington's intention to preserve, protect, and enhance its valued open spaces. Through research and analysis of the Town's open space needs and past accomplishments, this Plan aims to:

- ☞ establish Arlington's short-term and long-term open space goals, objectives, and priorities;
- ☞ present a broad statement about Arlington's long-term open space philosophy;
- ☞ document Arlington's current open space inventory; and
- ☞ provide updated information as required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts guidelines for open space plans.

This 2007 Plan builds on Arlington's 1996 and 2002 Open Space and Recreation Plans, reinforces the Town's original goals, reports on accomplishments to date and goals that have not yet been implemented, and outlines new goals and actions to be addressed during the next five years and beyond. An important overriding purpose of this Plan and the entire open space planning process is to foster public awareness of open space issues and to encourage the participation of Town officials and concerned citizens in the Plan's implementation.



Public interest in the 2007 - 2012 Open Space and Recreation plan was strong

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

One of the key recommendations of the 1996 Plan was establishment of a standing committee of citizens and Town representatives involved with open space issues to “facilitate, implement, update and further” the goals, objectives, and actions outlined in that Plan. Town Meeting approved creation of the Open Space Committee and the first members were appointed by the Town Manager in 1996.

Since then, representatives of several Town entities (including the Park and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Redevelopment Board, and the Departments of Planning and Community Development, Public Works, and Human Services) and concerned citizens have met regularly to exchange ideas and discuss ways to further protect the Town’s natural resources and enhance appropriate uses of its open space sites.

The Open Space Committee (OSC) serves an oversight function but does not have direct responsibility for the management of any specific Town properties. Its primary purpose is to enhance communication and coordination among those entities that do have management authority. In addition, the OSC seeks to raise broad-based community concerns and to advocate for the planning, stewardship, and use of the Town’s natural resources, which are a major element in quality of life. The OSC believes that the best way to fully address the needs and problems of the Town’s open spaces is to develop goals, procedures and policies in a comprehensive way.

Open Space Committee Members (2007)

- ☞ Jane Auger (Resident)
- ☞ Teresa DeBenedictis (Department of Public Works)
- ☞ Lisa Decker (Redevelopment Board)
- ☞ Joey Glushko (Planning and Community Development Department)
- ☞ Michele Hassler (Cemetery Commission)
- ☞ Elizabeth Karpati (Vision 2020)
- ☞ Patsy Kraemer (Department of Human Services)
- ☞ Ann LeRoyer (Resident), Chair
- ☞ Leslie Mayer (Park and Recreation Commission)
- ☞ David White (Conservation Commission), Vice Chair

In addition to their “official” representation as listed above, Open Space Committee members participate in numerous other open-space related activities in Town. For example, two members are elected Town Meeting representatives (Mayer, LeRoyer). Members also sit on various other volunteer committees, including: Vision 2020 Standing Committee (Glushko, Karpati, Mayer); Vision 2020 Reservoir Committee (Karpati, LeRoyer, Mayer, White); Vision 2020 Spy Pond and Sustainable Arlington committees (Karpati); and Arlington Land Trust (LeRoyer). Through these various connections and networks, the committee members actively sought input from a broad range of perspectives, including Town officials, civic activists, and concerned residents, to make this Plan as complete as possible.

Friends Groups

The level of public participation in open space and recreation issues has continued to increase since the 1996 Plan began focusing attention on open space needs. The proliferation of volunteer citizen groups concerned with specific neighborhood parks or recreational facilities has been very exciting. As the Town’s population is changing, current residents seem to be more actively engaged in their environment and concerned about the limited resources within our highly developed community. Representatives of Friends groups, land stewards and other groups have begun to meet on matters of common concern, including ways of raising funds for the maintenance of parks and open spaces.

Following are some of the most active committees and Friends groups:

- ☞ Vision 2020 Standing Committee, Vision 2020 Environment Task Force (Reservoir and Spy Pond Committees)
- ☞ Park and Recreation Commission
- ☞ Conservation Commission
- ☞ Arlington Redevelopment Board
- ☞ Arlington Land Trust
- ☞ Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee
- ☞ Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park
- ☞ Friends of Robbins Farm Park
- ☞ Friends of Spy Pond Park
- ☞ Friends of Arlington Great Meadows
- ☞ Mt. Gilboa Neighborhood Association
- ☞ East Arlington Good Neighbor Committee
- ☞ Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
- ☞ Arlington Historical Commission



Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee

A trail in Menotomy Rocks Park

Please respond by filling in the appropriate bubble

Vision 2020 Survey 2007

1. What is your precinct number? (This can be obtained from your census form.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

☐ ☐

2. Please tell us about yourself and your household:

	0	1	2	3	4	> 4
Number of adults aged 65 or older in your household	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of adults aged 18 to 64 in your household	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of children aged 17 and under in household	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of years you have lived in Arlington	<input type="radio"/>	< 5	<input type="radio"/>	5 to 15	<input type="radio"/>	> 15
Do you own or rent?	<input type="radio"/>	Own	<input type="radio"/>	Rent		
Which of the following best describes your housing?	<input type="radio"/>	Single family	<input type="radio"/>	2-4 units	<input type="radio"/>	5 or >

3. **Arlington – A Welcoming Community**

One of Arlington's goals is that "Our town's mix of ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds, as well as economic and personal circumstances, enriches us all. We will be known for the warm welcome and respect we extend to all." From the following statements, choose those you feel describe Arlington as a welcoming and respectful community:

- ☐ Libraries, schools and government services are accessible and well-administered
- ☐ There are places where people can sit around casually and talk
- ☐ I / We feel accepted
- ☐ Parks, playgrounds and open spaces are maintained and distributed throughout the town
- ☐ Neighbors make efforts to know and help each other
- ☐ Local media (newspaper, cable, website, e-lists) help keep people up-to-date on town happenings
- ☐ Newcomers can easily find ways to participate in town life
- ☐ Town leaders and the culture of the community promote fairness and equality
- ☐ A town resource directory is available
- ☐ Voting information is easy to find
- ☐ Residents – new and long-term – feel their experiences and perspectives are valued

Yes No Don't Know

4. **"Activate Arlington"**

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 4a. Have you been made aware of the 5-2-1 message about "5+ fruits & veggies; less than 2 hours of screentime; and 1+ hour of exercise per day"? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4b. Have you heard of "Activate Arlington"? (sponsor of Moving Day, Hershey's Track Meet, Seniors Walk the Rink, Safe Routes to Schools, Fitnessgram, Table Tennis at the Gibbs, Brackett's morning workout, McClennen skate park, staff wellness programs and more!) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4c. Have you or members of your household participated in any "Activate Arlington" programs or events? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Town Meeting and Annual Reports

In addition, Town Meeting has responded positively to a number of specific planning and open space related issues over the past few years. In its sessions from 2002 through 2007 Town Meeting expanded and/or clarified numerous details regarding the open space district zone, historic districts boundaries, and wetlands bylaws; adopted goals for the Reservoir proposed by the Vision 2020 Reservoir Committee; established a Tree Committee and a Cemetery Expansion Study Committee; and approved bylaws to enhance the use and maintenance of parks, playing fields and recreational facilities, including such issues as dog activity, playing field usage, and graffiti and vandalism.

Previously, Town Meeting voted in 2000 to approve the 1996 Plan's goal of acquiring the Mugar parcel for open space purposes, and approved new zoning regulations concerning transportation districts in Town, in particular as those regulations affect the Marquis/Minuteman Bikeway. In May 2001, Town Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to preserving the Mugar property as open space and approved a new open space zoning district and the designation of nearly 50 sites to be transferred into that district.

Each year since 1996 the Town has received Annual Reports from the Open Space Committee for inclusion in the town wide Annual Report, which is published each spring. (see Appendix A for recent reports).

Surveys

Several recent surveys also reinforce the high level of concern and involvement with open space and recreation issues. Vision 2020 is a committee of the Town that works in a partnership with its residents, employees, and leaders. As part of the annual Town Census mailing, Vision 2020 distributes a survey to help identify concerns and priorities. The results of the January 2007 Survey from about 3,500 households included the following highlights (see Appendix B for complete results):

- ☛ The top three open space locations were the Minuteman Bikeway, Spy Pond and Menotomy Rocks Park
- ☛ The favorite qualities of Arlington's open spaces and parks were
 - ☛ Peaceful, pleasant, attractive areas
 - ☛ Walkable and accessible
 - ☛ Natural, wooded open spaces

Sample page from a Vision 2020 survey

- ☞ The major concerns were maintenance, vandalism, and dogs (clean up/ disturb others)
- ☞ There was slight majority support for a dog park
- ☞ Arlington needs swimming facilities, dog parks, and community gardens
- ☞ A combination of user fees, public/private funding, state and federal funding, and local taxes should be used to finance the Town's needs.

These survey findings combined with formal and informal input from the committees and groups noted above, as well as from many other individual sources, help form the foundation of public participation and support for open space and recreation goals that make this planning process so relevant and timely to Arlington citizens.

Consultant Services

In the spring of 2006, the Open Space Committee requested \$15,000 from the Town's Community Development Block Grant program to hire a consultant to help the committee members develop the new 2007-2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Town Meeting approved those funds, and in October 2006 the Town issued a Request for Proposals. In November, the Town selected Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) to prepare the plan with the Open Space Committee. Ralph Willmer, AICP, was designated the Project Manager for VHB.

During the course of the planning process, VHB facilitated two public forums to solicit direct input from residents and community leaders. Both forums were held in Arlington's Town Hall Auditorium, the first taking place on February 12, 2007 and the second on June 13, 2007. The meetings were well attended by members of the community, as well as the Open Space Committee. The first forum centered on updating the goals from the 2002 Plan, and community members were invited to vote via dot stickers on which goals they found most important. The second meeting was an update on the status of the new Plan, as well as a discussion of the preliminary recommendations and goals which, when finalized, will be included in the updated Plan. Through their participation, the community members reaffirmed their dedication to preserving and enhancing open space in Arlington.



Photo by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.



Scenes from the public forums



Scenes from the public forums

C. Accomplishments, 2002-2007

This section lists many of the accomplishments that have protected and enhanced Arlington's open spaces since 2002. Some of these accomplishments were expressed as general ideas or goals in the Town's earlier Open Space Plans, but they took shape through the hard work and cooperation of many Town boards and commissions, residents, private groups, and Town employees. The Open Space Committee wishes to acknowledge the contributions of many individuals and organizations that recognized a wide range of opportunities to advocate for and work towards protecting our Town's open space and recreation resources.

Goal 1. Acquire undeveloped lands for permanent protection as open space in neighborhoods throughout the Town.

- ☞ Actions were initiated by the Board of Selectmen in early 2001 to acquire the 18-acre Symmes Hospital land, which was put up for sale by then owners, Lahey Clinic and HealthSouth. The site includes former hospital buildings, former nurses' housing, several parking lots, and more than nine acres of undeveloped wooded land. After an extensive community planning process, including a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion override in 2001, Town Meeting approved the plan to acquire the site in 2004 and undertake a redevelopment plan with the stipulation that approximately 50 percent of the site remains as open space. That space is protected with a conservation restriction held by the Arlington Land Trust and the Arlington Conservation Commission. Construction on the development area is scheduled to begin in late 2007.
- ☞ Town Meeting voted nearly unanimously in 2000 and again in 2001 to seek to acquire the 17-acre Mugar parcel in East Arlington, on which owners were seeking to develop a large commercial and office complex. After the real estate market declined during the early 2000s, no further action has been taken to develop the property. However, its protection as open space remains a high priority for the Town, and intermittent negotiations continue with the owner.
- ☞ Arlington Land Trust, established in late 1999, is a nonprofit organization that works to acquire and hold easements on privately owned land for conservation purposes. In 2005 ALT negotiated its first easement with the owner of a large house lot.
- ☞ During the fall of 2006, the Land Trust began discussions with the private owner of Elizabeth Island, who is interested in selling the island. This two-acre undeveloped island in Spy Pond is also a top priority for acquisition and protection as continued open space.

- ☞ The Board of Selectmen is in discussions with the Archdiocese of Boston regarding a plot of undeveloped land at the southeast corner of Spy Pond that was across the street from the former St. Jerome's Church property. Most of the church land was sold in 2004 and developed into five house lots.
- ☞ Town Meeting voted in 1995 to acquire Reed's Brook, a former Arlington dumpsite on the Arlington/Lexington town line, primarily for flood control, conservation land, and several playing fields. It was redeveloped into a park, named McClennen Park in honor of former long-time planning director Alan McClennen Jr. It opened in 2006 and features playing fields for baseball and soccer, natural areas, a retention pond, a ½ mile trail, a playground, and a skate park.
- ☞ One recent loss of private open space was the sale of Knowles Farm, a 1.2 acre historic farm and farmhouse, to a developer in 2005. The Board of Selectmen approved a new street on the property, thus permitting the development of a small housing cluster of five new houses and the renovated farmhouse. Prior attempts to negotiate with the owners on a conservation restriction or other means to protect this historic farmland were not successful.
- ☞ Numerous other large house lots have been subdivided and new houses added, most notably a large lot on which the original house was destroyed and three large new houses were built on minimum sized lots of about 6,000 square feet each.

Goal 2. Preserve, protect and enhance existing open spaces, including watersheds and natural areas; parks, playgrounds, and outdoor recreational facilities; and historic sites and cultural landscapes.

2-a. Preserve and protect the Town's natural heritage, including watersheds, water bodies, native flora and fauna, and all existing natural areas.

Management Plans:

- ☞ Open Space Committee prepared management plans using a consistent format for 12 major open space areas (including some parks):
 - ☞ Arlington's Great Meadows (located in Lexington; contains wetlands and a certified vernal pool)
 - ☞ Arlington Reservoir (water body, natural trail, beach)
 - ☞ McClennen Park (small water body and trail; playing fields)
 - ☞ Meadowbrook Park (along Mill Brook)
 - ☞ Menotomy Rocks Park (woods, trails, and Hill's Pond)



Formerly a dumpsite, McClennen Park now serves as an amenity



Spy Pond scenes

- Minuteman Bikeway – Arlington portion (Donald Marquis - Minuteman Bikeway)
- Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (along Mill Brook)
- Robbins Farm Park (playing fields, scenic vistas)
- Spy Pond Park and Route 2 path (at opposite ends of Spy Pond)
- Town Hall Gardens and Old Burying Ground (historic sites)
- ☞ The state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has a master plan for Alewife Brook Reservation, which is not yet implemented.
- ☞ Maintenance plans have also been developed by the contractors for areas that were recently built or renovated (McClennen Park, Spy Pond Park, and Robbins Farm Park).
- ☞ In addition, Menotomy Rocks Park has a maintenance plan prepared by its Friends group.
- ☞ Efforts are ongoing by the Open Space Committee and Friends groups to coordinate with the Arlington Department of Public Works (DPW) to ensure that these plans are being followed.

Spy Pond:

- ☞ Arlington received a three-year (2001-2004) demonstration grant of nearly \$300,000 from the Department of Environmental Management (now Conservation and Recreation), for water quality improvement in Spy Pond, mainly through stormwater management in the watershed. It required a 25 percent match from the Town. Projects carried out under this grant included:
 - Installation of leaching catch basins on 21 of the 43 storm drains that empty into the pond, in locations with suitable soil;
 - Alum treatment in 2004 to counteract algae growth by reducing dissolved phosphorus in the pond;
 - Partial funding of the 2005 “Sonar” herbicide treatment (see below);
 - Public education activities included:
 - Marking of storm drains in the 700-acre Spy Pond watershed with markers designed by Arlington High School students;
 - Distribution of leaflets throughout the watershed each spring, asking residents to use low- or no-phosphorus fertilizer; and
 - Ecological gardening classes offered in 2002, 2003 and 2004 (some classes are now offered through Arlington Community Education).
- ☞ After investigating possibilities for dealing with a heavy infestation of coontail and Eurasian water milfoil, the Spy Pond Committee concluded that chemical treatment was required. At its initiative the Town had the pond treated with the herbicide “Sonar” in 2001 and 2005.

- ☞ The Spy Pond Committee organized a three-year (2005-2007) project to improve the area of the state-owned footpath between the southern end of the pond and Rt. 2. The project, which was cleared with MassHighway, included:
 - ☞ Extensive removal of invasive plants, resulting in the creation of some vistas across the pond;
 - ☞ Hiring a professional trail crew from the Appalachian Mountain Club to supervise and assist with the building of several sets of steps from the path down the steep slope to the shoreline, thus stopping erosion caused by foot traffic; and
 - ☞ Adding some amenities like native shrubs, a stone bench, and bird houses
- ☞ The Friends of Spy Pond Park are trying to dissuade park users from feeding the Canada geese, which attracts them in unnatural numbers. Volunteers were trained and licensed, and are adding eggs each spring to keep the goose population from increasing.
- ☞ A Tufts University professor and his students have been monitoring the results from the grant. They have also been using Spy Pond as a field site for other water quality studies they were doing, and have shared those results with the Town.
- ☞ The Spy Pond Committee of the Vision 2020 Environment Task Group has conducted one or more cleanups each year along the shoreline in cooperation with the nonprofit group Friends of Spy Pond Park. Additional trash barrels have also been added for year-round use.

Arlington Reservoir:

- ☞ When the Reservoir area was threatened with the need to remove all the trees on the earthen dam for safety reasons, the Reservoir Committee campaigned long and hard to save the trees. Eventually Weston & Sampson engineering consultants found an alternative that saved most of the trees by reinforcing the dam with interlocking steel plates. The dam was reinforced for safety, and the outflow was redesigned with a new gate. A new spillway was added and handsome bridges built over both new and old spillways. The wetland was replicated, replacement trees are being planted during 2007, and an educational garden has been planned.
- ☞ The engineering work was completed in 2005 and won two awards: Public Works Project of the Year for 2006, American Public Works Association; and Engineering Excellence Award 2006, American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts.

- ☞ Trees lost to the creation of a second spillway were replaced by trees planted at the Reservoir and elsewhere in Arlington.
- ☞ Improved maintenance achieved through the dam project also included:
 - ☞ upgraded trails,
 - ☞ creation of planting plan,
 - ☞ removed “stump dump,” which is now being landscaped as part of the dam remediation project,
 - ☞ regular volunteer cleanups coordinated by the Vision 2020 Reservoir Committee,
 - ☞ wood chips spread on conservation land trail, and
 - ☞ daffodils planted near parking area.



Photo by Alison Fox - University of Florida

Invasive species up close - Eurasian water milfoil



Trees dot the landscape in Robbins Farm Park



Since 2002 Arlington has been listed as a Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation

- ☞ The Reservoir Committee and the Recreation Department worked to provide a balance of healthy, clean water for swimming and water quality appropriate to support wildlife. This was achieved through continued chlorinating, filtering, and testing of the water in the separate swimming area, as well as through a multi-year machine and hand harvesting program that eradicated water chestnuts. Weed activity is now being monitored.

Other projects:

- ☞ Boy Scout projects built steps at Window-on-the-Mystic, a three-acre conservation area on the Upper Mystic Lake, and at Meadowbrook Park.
- ☞ The Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park have undertaken many projects, including cleanups, removal of invasive plants, paying for tree pruning and weed treatment of Hill's Pond, a memorial bench program, and maintenance of a perennial garden at the entrance to the park. A Town-financed project including improvements to two fields and the path around the park is under way in 2007.
- ☞ Native vegetation was used wholly or largely in the following projects:
 - ☞ Plantings used in the renovation of Spy Pond Park,
 - ☞ Trees planted to replace those lost to the safety improvements at the Reservoir dam
 - ☞ Trees used in making Arlington qualify as a Tree City, and
 - ☞ Plantings by volunteers along Ryder Brook and in spaces cleared of invasive plants along the Rt. 2 path and the Bikeway.
- ☞ A Tree Committee was established by Town Meeting in 2004. Among its initiatives is to work with the Department of Public Works to plant native species as street trees, rather than invasive species such as Norway Maples.
- ☞ The Town maintains a tree program that includes sales of street trees to residents and the replacement of trees that must be removed because of disease or safety concerns.
- ☞ A Cemetery Expansion Study Committee was established by Town Meeting in 2006 to explore options for expanding burial options for town residents, since the primary burial site, Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, is reaching capacity.
- ☞ Arlington Land Trust serves as fiscal agent for Friends of Arlington Great Meadows and the Land Conservation Stewards program to help raise funds to support those volunteer activities, which have included the building of boardwalks, clearing invasive plants, and educational programs.
- ☞ No progress has been made on establishing permanent protection for Arlington's Great Meadows, an important 183-acre wetland area located in Lexington, but owned by the Town of Arlington.

2-b. Preserve, protect, and enhance Arlington's parks, playgrounds, playing fields, and other outdoor recreation space.

Playing field upgrades:

- Continuation of program to restore and maintain Town's playing fields by completing the renovation of fields at Summer St. and Crosby School, and major multi-field W.A. Peirce Field project at Arlington High School, which included a field turf multi-use playing field, new practice soccer field, renovated baseball and softball/Little League fields, concession stand, new bleachers, lighting, and press box.
- New Little League and multi-use (soccer, lacrosse, football, etc) playing fields and nature trails completed the newly dedicated McClennen Park (formerly Reed's Brook).
- Renovation projects for Bishop and Buzzell Fields currently underway.

Reservoir beach and swimming area improvements:

- Worked to eliminate bird (duck/goose) waste on the beach by installing seasonal goose fencing on berm; introducing a "dog program" and egg addling to keep water fowl in natural water areas during swimming season; and additional daily waste clean up by seasonal staff.
- Sand and volleyball play area added to beach.
- Improvements made to fix filtering system and inflow/outflow infrastructure problems.

Infrastructure upgrades for major parks and conservation areas:

- Reed's Brook has been redeveloped from a closed dump site with a collapsed culvert that caused flooding in a nearby residential area into McClennen Park, with new Little League and multi-use (soccer, lacrosse, football, etc) playing fields, a playground, skateboard area, walking trails, and a retention pond which has solved the flooding problem.
- At Great Meadows, volunteers built boardwalks in 2005 to further protect some wetland areas and enhance visitors' experiences.
- Robbins Farm Park received new landscaping, paths, skyline overlook area, site furnishings and recreational facilities, including new playground and hill slide restoration work. The baseball/soccer field is scheduled to be renovated.
- Major improvements made to Spy Pond Park shoreline and park, including new walking paths, a new boat ramp, drainage work, benches, picnic tables, irrigation, pond access points, fencing and plantings to discourage erosion and nuisance waterfowl.



Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee

Improvements to Reservoir beach keep the crowds coming back



Robbins Park during the community build



Robbins Park after the community build

- ☞ The Marquis/ Minuteman Bikeway was repaved in FY 2003 with funds given in exchange for the right to lay fiber optic cable alongside the path. Some historical signs were also added along the Bikeway.
- ☞ Waldo Park renovations included new playground, paths, landscaping, message board, and restored basketball court.
- ☞ Completed improvements to North Union Playground, including rubberized playground safety surfacing, and Locke School Park Playground, including ADA accessibility, new play structures, paved play area, plantings, and site furnishings.
- ☞ Cutter School playground renovated with funds provided by Saturn automobile company and dedicated to the memory of bicycle racer Nicole Reinhart, who died in a bike race accident in Arlington.
- ☞ At Menotomy Rocks Park, designs, plans, and funding have been approved for renovation of pathway system, rear field, and pond improvements, and the project is now underway.

Public/private partnerships and funding initiatives:

- ☞ Community build projects were used to build the playground at McClennen Park and to complete playground renovations at Waldo Park and Robbins Farm Park; the Robbins Farm project included the participation of high school students as part of their team community service.
- ☞ Friends groups designed and donated signs at Spy Pond Park at Linwood St., at several locations around Arlington's Great Meadows, and Turkey Hill, and provided an historical information sign at Robbins Farm Park.
- ☞ Field lighting was installed at Buck Field with the funding and efforts of Little League.
- ☞ A Field Maintenance Fee program was implemented for all organized users of playing fields, including youth, high school, and adult leagues, to be used for outsourced fertilization and aeration maintenance activities.
- ☞ Parents formed the Bishop Playground Improvement Committee (BPIC), created a comprehensive plan to renovate the playground used by the school children and have raised the necessary funds to complete a phase one renovation, which will be undertaken in the fall of 2007 through a community build project.

Enhanced facilities for tennis and basketball:

- Renovation of Crosby tennis courts completed; Grove St. and Spy Pond tennis courts included in the Park & Recreation Capital Plan for future funding.
- Basketball court renovation/restoration completed at Arlington High School and Waldo Park; Buzzell Field basketball courts renovation in process.

2-c. Preserve, protect, and enhance Arlington's historic open spaces and cultural landscapes.

Interpretative programs:

- Old Schwamb Mill received state restoration grant and private matching funds (completed in 1999) and maintains active membership and school education programs relating to mill operations, the mill pond system, and Mill Brook.
- Historical signage prepared and installed along the Marquis/Minuteman Bikeway in spring 2001. Signs are regularly cleaned of graffiti and other damage.
- Jason Russell House and Smith Museum continue varied programs on Arlington history.
- Patriot's Day parade and Minuteman Revolutionary War re-enactments occur annually.
- Vision 2020 Town map of open space, recreational, and historic sites republished, distributed, and still available.
- Bicentennial Lecture Series in the years 2006-2007 honored Arlington's 200th anniversary as a town, including information on historic sites in Arlington, especially the historical Town Hall/Whittemore Robbins House/Robbins Library complex.
- Cyrus Dallin Museum located in the historic Jefferson Cutter House in Arlington Center offers regular educational programs and other events.
- History of Robbins Farm (1990) by Oakes Plimpton was reprinted in 1998 and 2007.
- A booklet on the history of Menotomy Rocks Park by Don Mattheisen published around 2000 remains the most informative account of that major park.
- The Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park and Friends of Robbins Farm Park, with the Arlington Center for the Arts and local businesses, cosponsor an annual summer performance of Shakespeare plays.
- The Spy Pond Park, Menotomy Rocks Park, and Robbins Farm Park Friends groups also sponsor other activities throughout the year.



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/dales/392253132/>



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/dales/392251073/>

Scenes from the 2003 Patriot's Day Parade in Arlington

Landscape and maintenance plans for significant historical sites:

- ☞ Maintenance plans for the historical gardens of the Whittemore Robbins House, the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden, and the Historical Burying Grounds were developed by the Open Space Committee in 2006. These maintenance plans were reviewed with the Department of Public Works and the Planning Department.
- ☞ A stewards group for the Town Hall historical complex provides detailed gardening work on an ongoing basis. The stewards group has worked to remove the invasive plants in the complex, to restore some of the plantings, to prune the overgrown shrubs and trees, and to plant appropriate annuals.
- ☞ A \$100,000 grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation was applied for in winter 2007 to restore the garden wall in front of the Memorial Garden on the Massachusetts Avenue side; the grant was not funded, however.
- ☞ CDBG grant money was used to restore the historical wall fronting the Old Burying Ground after damage done was by a snow plow. This work was due to be completed in 2007.

Goal 3. Coordinate and strengthen local and regional planning and management of open spaces in conjunction with various Town departments, commissions, and volunteer groups, and work closely with nearby towns and regional entities and with state and federal officials and agencies.

3-a. Work within the Town of Arlington to better coordinate and manage open space goals and objectives.

Role of the Open Space Committee:

- ☞ The OSC has submitted annual reports to the Town Meeting for publication in the Town's Annual Report (see Appendix A).
- ☞ Diverse representation on the committee (Conservation Commission, Planning Dept., Redevelopment Board, Public Works Dept., Cemetery Commission, Human Services Dept., Park and Recreation Commission) encourages the coordinated effort of users and caretakers;
- ☞ Committee meets with Friends groups and other interested parties to hear about concerns and helps to coordinate effort to address roles, interaction, and support of DPW personnel with volunteers and stewards.

Town policies and initiatives:

- ☞ The Town has established policies (as regulations and as bylaws) to strengthen oversight at public open spaces:
 - ☞ improved stormwater runoff control, bikeway signage and bicycle parking, use of playing fields affected by storms, and parking at open space venues;
 - ☞ created a public hearing process for the creation, placement, and use of fenced off-leash dog exercise areas. The Park and Recreation Commission will develop the rules and regulations for the hearing process;
 - ☞ requires permits for field use by organized groups;
 - ☞ created and maintains field cancellation hotline and field conditions web site to improve communication with user groups in order to protect fields that are at risk of damage if used; and
 - ☞ acknowledges lack of success in dealing with acts of graffiti and vandalism.

Photo Courtesy of Arlington Open Space Committee



Graffiti marring a Park and Recreation Commission sign

- ☞ The Town received Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant and CDBG funding to support public opinion surveys and a series of planning dialogues to explore future directions for balancing development of housing and commercial activity with open space and recreational planning and maintenance.
- ☞ Spurred by public support of the Town's redevelopment plan at the Symmes development site, a conservation restriction held by the Conservation Commission and the Arlington Land Trust will ensure protection of wooded areas and other open space at the site, including a Vista Park open to the public.
- ☞ Some staff leadership changes have been made in the Department of Public Works, but a management position for planning and maintenance of natural resources has not yet been created.

Capital improvements planning:

- ☞ The Park and Recreation Commission continues to manage a 10-year capital plan for open space and recreation improvements within the structure of the Department of Public Works, looking at recreational and parks maintenance and development; projects and progress are dependent on funding availability each year.
- ☞ Parks and playgrounds are funded for periodic planned renovation. During the past five-year period, the following parks received renovation funds and the work was completed: Waldo, Spy Pond, Cutter, Locke, Peirce School, North Union, and Robbins Farm.
- ☞ Feasibility studies are completed for improvements to Greeley Park, Summer St. Playground, Wellington Park, and the parking lots at Thorndike Field and the Veterans' Rink/Arlington Sports Center.
- ☞ User group fees support additional outsourced maintenance operation expenses for playing fields.
- ☞ The Field Maintenance and User Fee Study Committee 2005 report to Town Meeting recommended a field rotation and resting policy and user fees to support enhanced maintenance activities (see Appendix C).
- ☞ Town Meeting of 2006 passed a warrant article, submitted by the Vision 2020 Environment Task Group, creating a fund to support regular water quality testing and monitoring of all the Town's water bodies.

Acquisition of private open space:

- ☞ Discussions continue with Mugar site owners by the Board of Selectmen and other individuals to try to negotiate acquisition of that land for open space.
- ☞ Elizabeth Island was listed for sale in the fall of 2006; the Arlington Land Trust is taking the lead in negotiating with the owner to acquire the island for conservation.
- ☞ The opportunity was lost to save the historic Knowles Farm, which was redeveloped as a residential cluster of six houses, including the original farmhouse.
- ☞ This and other lost opportunities to preserve large residential lots highlight the need for better communications and advocacy for saving the few special parcels of undeveloped lands that still exist in Arlington.

Public/private partnerships:

- ☞ The Peirce Field at Arlington High School has been renovated and remediated for contamination under state Superfund laws, with funding provided by several utilities and other companies.
- ☞ The Marquis/Minuteman Bikeway was repaved in FY2003, supported by funds from RCN, a local cable company which also laid its own communication lines alongside the path.
- ☞ The Spy Pond Trail Project, to turn a neglected path into a linear park along the south side of Spy Pond, has worked with the Appalachian Mountain Club professional trail crew to create steps from the trail to the water's edge.
- ☞ Many cleanup efforts at parks and trails have received support for equipment and refreshments from town businesses including: local grocery and hardware stores, Bowes Realtors, Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, Trader Joe's, and the Fields Pond Foundation;
- ☞ The local Cambridge Savings Bank branch has covered the costs of printing the Minuteman Bikeway brochure, a map and guide to the many resources along the route of the bike corridor, which traverses three communities.
- ☞ The Workplace Program, an alternative high school program, has helped with volunteer maintenance efforts at several parks and open space areas.
- ☞ Arts programs offered at local parks seasonally have been supported by the Regent Theatre and the Arlington Arts Council.

3-b. Work at the regional level to coordinate planning and development initiatives that protect and enhance open space across jurisdictions.

- ☞ Work with the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) programs on its Find It, Fix It campaign, and other watershed education projects. Arlington provides office space available to MyRWA at no charge in the Senior Center building. Great Meadows, owned by Arlington but located in Lexington, is served by cooperative efforts of the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows, Lexington's Conservation Commission, students of the near-by Waldorf School, as well as Scouts in creating an informational signboard, boardwalk, and invasive plant removal efforts.
- ☞ Arlington owned land abutting the Arlington Reservoir, also partly in Lexington, has experienced clearing of vegetation and the deposition of yard debris by nearby residents. At the request of the Vision 2020 Reservoir Committee, Lexington Conservation Commission sent letters to Lexington abutters of the Reservoir to explain Arlington's ownership of the land around the Reservoir, and to discourage dumping and clearing of vegetation.
- ☞ The ABC (Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge) Tri-Community group (created in 2002) has been working to resolve flooding and CSO issues in the Fresh Pond and Alewife Brook areas. They have entered an agreement (2005) with the US Geological Survey to maintain a "real time" stream gauging station on the Alewife Brook (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ma/nwis/current/?type=flow>).
- ☞ Many other regional projects involve state and/or federal funding and are included in the following section.

3-c. Engage state officials and state and federal agencies in Town efforts to acquire, maintain, and manage open space and recreation resources.

- ☞ The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has developed a master plan for the Alewife Brook Reservation creating a linkage from Alewife T-Station to the Mystic Valley Parkway area and the future extension of the Green Line subway into Medford; issues of CSO contamination in the brook have delayed progress on the project. The East Arlington Good Neighbor Committee and the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association are actively involved in discussions that affect their neighborhood around Alewife Brook.
- ☞ A §319 grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection was awarded to Arlington and Belmont jointly, to install catch basins and provide local education regarding stormwater pollution management. Catchbasin installation has been accomplished.

- ☞ The Spy Pond Committee, with help from the professional trail crew of the Appalachian Mountain Club and town residents, was able to remediate a trail on property under the jurisdiction of MassHighway, to develop a linear park area along Route 2.
- ☞ Ecological gardening classes and spring garden tours, jointly sponsored by the Sustainable Arlington and Spy Pond Committees of Vision 2020, were offered in support of a DCR (DEM) Lakes and Ponds Grant in 2002 and 2003.
- ☞ The new McClennen Park has integrated management of flooding and active and passive open spaces; supported by State and Federal funds, the facility is protected under Article 97.
- ☞ The Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows, with the Arlington Land Trust, completed design and construction of boardwalks and visitor amenities with financial support from the State's Recreation Trails Program.
- ☞ The State Department of Conservation and Recreation with the town has completed an inventory of historic and recreation landscapes titled Arlington Reconnaissance Report / Freedom's Way Landscape Inventory (see Appendix D).
- ☞ The State legislature, responding to the Towns of Arlington, Lexington, Lincoln, and Concord, and the National Park Service, has designated Massachusetts Avenue a "Scenic Byway". The group has now applied for federal funds to complete a management plan for the corridor. A decision on the funding is expected in 2008. See above for community involvement in the Freedom's Way Heritage Association and Scenic Byways Programs, which are supported by MassDevelopment and the State Office of Tourism.
- ☞ Arlington is fortunate to have had former Sen. Robert Havern and Reps. Anne Paulsen (and now Will Brownsberger), James Marzilli, and Jay Kaufman active in a number of specific town efforts supporting bicycle advocacy, ecological gardening endeavors, regional cooperation on environmental concerns in the Alewife area, and other issues.
- ☞ Town Meeting of 2006 passed a warrant article, submitted by the Vision 2020 Environmental Task Group, creating a fund to support regular water quality testing and monitoring; it is waiting approval by State Legislature.
- ☞ The Town has not been successful in working with the MassHighway in regard to removal of runoff deposition of particulates at the Rt. 2 stormdrain, which empties into Spy Pond.
- ☞ In 2001 the Board of Selectmen created a study committee to research the partially state-funded Community Preservation Act (CPA) and how Arlington might take advantage of the program. The study committee's warrant article of 2003 seeking adoption of the CPA was defeated.



A new bulletin board at the Reservoir

Goal 4. Increase public awareness, accessibility, and community stewardship of the Town's open spaces.

4-a. Develop a stewardship program for major open spaces and key neighborhood parks.

- ☞ Many volunteer Friends groups and committees have been established around specific sites, including Spy Pond Park, Reservoir, Robbins Farm Park, Mt. Gilboa, Menotomy Rocks Park, and many playgrounds (Waldo, Summer Street, North Union, and Greeley Park at Stratton School).
- ☞ The Land Stewards program coordinated by the Conservation Commission has active members attending to Turkey Hill, Hill's Hill, Crusher Lot, and Arlington's Great Meadows.
- ☞ A "summit meeting" attended by representatives of the majority of Friends and Stewards groups was held in the fall of 2006 to discuss matters of common concern. This "Friends of Parks" group continues to meet with representatives of the Park and Recreation Commission and Recreation Department to share concerns and plans for park maintenance and new ideas. Plans are being developed to create a fund with private donations to provide enhanced maintenance and special projects.
- ☞ DPW supports Friends groups by providing trash pick-up for clean-up efforts, and delivery of wood chips and other items for improvements.
- ☞ School, scout, and other groups have sponsored clean-ups on the Marquis/ Minuteman Bikeway.

4-b. Increase public awareness and educate Town residents about open space and recreational resources.

Uniform signage and information boards:

- ☞ New signs identifying playing fields and rules for use have been designed and are in the process of being created and installed at all Town playing fields.
- ☞ Signs created by the Town to encourage respectful use of the Turkey Hill area were installed by members of the Stewards group.
- ☞ Bulletin boards have been added to the Reservoir, Robbins Farm Park, Spy Pond Park, and Waldo Park.

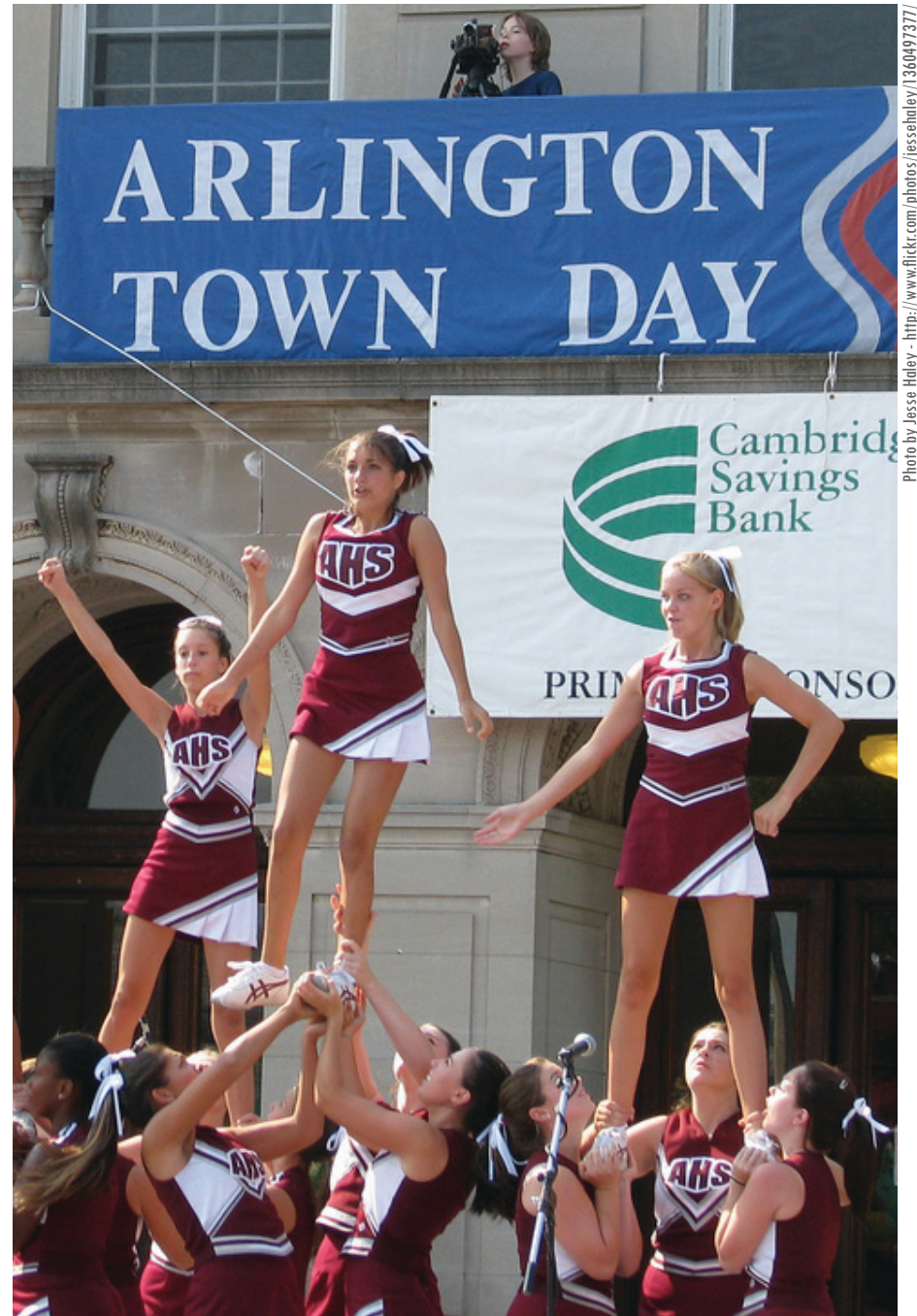
Environmental education programs:

- ☞ Friends groups conduct activities like nature walks and cleanups in their areas. The Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park have an Earth Day event for young and old every other year, with activities ranging from kite flying to a geology walk through the park.

- ☞ Organizations like the Mystic River Watershed Association (headquartered in Arlington) and Friends of Alewife Reservation also conduct activities which may take place wholly or partly in Arlington.
- ☞ A “Tour of the Reservoir” booklet was created as part of an education program involving elementary students engaged in a multidisciplinary (science/art/civics) field study / sketching project. It has been distributed widely at Town Day, to Town Meeting members and others, and is posted on the Reservoir Web site. It will be updated after all the work related to the dam repair and landscape work is completed.
- ☞ The Menotomy Bird Club was formed in 2003 to monitor bird activity in Arlington. They also sponsor birding trips and monthly lectures. They maintain a very informative Web site (<http://mrines.com/menotomy/>).
- ☞ Lists of birds recorded in specific areas such as the Reservoir, Spy Pond, Great Meadows, and Menotomy Rocks Park have been compiled and printed. These lists are available at Town Day and are updated periodically as additional species are spotted.
- ☞ In 2006 the Lexington Tree Committee presented a lecture series on urban street trees, tree management, and related topics. Several Arlington residents were among the speakers, and the series was widely advertised in Arlington.

Special events and activities:

- ☞ The annual Town Day is an important event for promoting awareness and information. Groups like the Open Space Committee, Arlington Land Trust, and Conservation Commission have their own booths and hand out materials, and the Spy Pond and Reservoir Committees are featured prominently at the Vision 2020 booth. A number of Friends groups concerned with various parks and playgrounds, including the Friends of Spy Pond Park, Menotomy Rocks Park, Robbins Farm Park, and Great Meadows, also traditionally have their own Town Day booths.
- ☞ New Reservoir bulletin board near parking area, donated by resident and installed by high school students; bathrooms in bathhouse painted by local Boy Scout troop.
- ☞ Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee offers tours and community bike rides.



A scene from Town Day 2007



In the warmer months Arlington holds a weekly Farmer's Market

Local and regional media:

- ☞ The Town's Web site (www.town.arlington.ma.us) includes information pages for the Open Space Committee (including the current Open Space Plan), Park and Recreation Commission, and Recreation Dept. activities, among many other resources and links to Friends groups, committees, etc. Recreation sign-ups can be accomplished online.
- ☞ The Open Space Committee, Park and Recreation Commission, and Conservation Commission hold regular monthly or bimonthly meetings that are announced in the Arlington Advocate and are open to the public. Minutes are available online and at the Robbins Library.
- ☞ Regular articles and announcements about open space issues and events appear in the Arlington Advocate, on the Community Access Cable channel, on the Town's Website, and on the Arlington email list (arlington@arlingtonlist.org).

Community gardening and sustainability activities:

- ☞ Community gardens have been established at Magnolia Field in East Arlington and are being evaluated for installation at other locations. These gardens are monitored by the Arlington Recreation Department.
- ☞ A weekly Farmers Market brings fresh produce from surrounding farms to Arlington's Town Center parking lot. The Market is managed by a private committee on Wednesdays from late June through late October.
- ☞ The Town supports a program for citizens to adopt road islands and other small public areas that they maintain for community benefit.
- ☞ The Vision 2020 Sustainable Arlington Committee has encouraged Arlington citizens to establish private gardens for their personal use. They have also espoused a program of eating food produced within 100 miles of one's home. This Committee has provided information to Arlington citizens on the use of composting to help reduce the amount of garden and yard waste that Arlington sends to landfill sites.
- ☞ The Public Works Department has an active public education program on composting, rainwater storage, and hazardous waste disposal. The Department makes available at a very reasonable cost compost bins and rainwater barrels. It also distributes to every household a schedule of recycling information.

4-c. Provide greater use of and improved access to key water bodies, natural areas, and recreational facilities.

- ☞ ADA accessibility at Locke School playground was improved by adding a ramp into a formerly inaccessible site, paths at Menotomy Rocks Park will be accessible, and access to the water at Spy Pond Park was enhanced through installation of switchback ramp.
- ☞ Improvements at Menotomy Rocks Park will include enhanced access points to Hill's Pond.
- ☞ Standards have been established for using a stabilized aggregate surfacing when improving park paths throughout town.
- ☞ Improvements at Spy Pond Park have been drawing increasing numbers of people to the park. The boat ramp, intended for emergency boats, has made it easier to launch private boats and to do so without eroding the shoreline.
- ☞ Improvements at the Reservoir include year-round access to Lowell St. parking lot; a handicapped-accessible path in the new dam berm area; wood chips spread in Reservoir conservation area trail to make path less uneven; a new sidewalk, crosswalks and pedestrian signs installed in Arlington along Lowell St.; and a new family pass program to encourage affordable family use of the beach and swimming facilities.

4-d. Support Arlington's efforts for a more environmentally sound Town and region.

- ☞ In May 2000 the Arlington Selectmen voted to join the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign, which calls for the development of a climate action plan by each participating town. This task was undertaken by Sustainable Arlington (SA), a committee of the Vision 2020 Environment Task Group, with the help of some interns from Tufts University. SA decided to broaden the scope of the plan to include other aspects of sustainability but to concentrate first on topics related to climate change.
- ☞ Sustainable Arlington developed Part I of its Arlington Sustainability Action Plan (ASAP for short), which was presented to the Board of Selectmen in June 2006. It focuses on energy efficiency, energy sourcing, transportation, and "social marketing." Selectmen and committee members are working on implementation. Part II is to include sections on Open Space as well as water conservation, waste reduction, toxics reduction, etc. (see Appendix E) <http://www.massclimateaction.org/arlington.htm>).
- ☞ While Part I was being developed, the Town already took some actions on the initiative of SA:
 - ☞ Lighting efficiency (mercury-vapor streetlights replaced by high-pressure sodium; traffic lights replaced by light-emitting diodes; light bulbs in the main library reading room replaced by compact fluorescent lamps.)

- ☞ Town Meeting passed two bylaws: (1) Requiring each new Town vehicle to be the most energy-efficient one suitable for its purpose; and (2) Making LEED certification at the silver level the goal for any new Town building.
- ☞ The Department of Public Works (DPW) instituted a no-idling policy for its vehicles.
- ☞ A Town-wide recycling program has been in effect for many years. Paper, cans and bottles, and yard waste in season are picked up every other week and Christmas trees in January. DPW prepares and distributes an annual leaflet with recycling instructions and a calendar showing pickup weeks for each area. A half-time Recycling Coordinator position has been hired to implement the program.
- ☞ There is also a volunteer Recycling Committee that publishes periodic tips in the Arlington Advocate, Web site, and Town email list, and generally tries to promote recycling. It has proposed a "pay as you throw" program, but that was voted down by Town Meeting in 2005.
- ☞ A survey conducted in connection with the annual Town census in January 2006 indicated that over 70 percent of respondents knew about the mandatory recycling bylaw, and over 95 percent recycled at least some items.
- ☞ Sustainability questions in the same survey indicated that over 87 percent of respondents reduced heat at night or when nobody was at home, nearly half used more than one compact fluorescent light(CFL), and three out of four claimed they frequently reused "single-use" items. Few, however, used renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind.
- ☞ Composting is promoted at Town Day. The recycling calendar mentioned above notes that the Town DPW has compost bins available at modest prices and urges homeowners to leave grass clippings on their lawn.
- ☞ Sustainable Arlington sponsored several ecological gardening classes in the spring of 2002, 2003, and 2004. In spring 2006 such classes were included in the offerings of the community education program at Arlington High School.
- ☞ Arlington participates in a hazardous waste collection program with neighboring towns. The collection site is in Lexington, with monthly drop-off dates in spring, summer, and fall. The recycling calendar lists the dates and what materials will be accepted.
- ☞ The Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee meets regularly to promote use of the Marquis/Minuteman Bikeway for commuting and recreation and to deal with other bicycle-related issues.